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Bill to protect students from lost MEAPs gets committee approval

Lansing – The Senate Education Committee today approved Senate Bill 787, which would protect students and schools from being penalized if their Michigan Educational Assessment

Program answer sheets are lost by the Michigan Department of Education or a state contractor, committee chairman, Sen. Wayne Kuipers, announced today.

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood), Senate Bill 787 would protect school districts like the Grand Rapids School District, one of nine districts in Michigan that have had some MEAP answer sheets lost.

"Parents need to be sure a screw-up they're not at all responsible doesn't hurt their child's education and future," Hardiman said. "My bill ensures that."

About 3,400 answer sheets are missing statewide. Of those, about 1,000 are from Grand Rapids schools. Under SB 787, schools could not be unfairly designated as unaccredited or as not maintaining federal adequate yearly progress as required by the No Child Left Behind Act because of missing results.

"I'm pleased to see the Senate moving so quickly to ensure students and districts aren't punished for something out of their control," said Kuipers (R-Holland). "It makes sense to allow the students to not be counted if they had their test lost."

The bill now goes to the full Senate for consideration